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By *ADAM FITZ-ADAM.*

To be continued every THURSDAY.

THURSDAY, *December* the 16th, 1756.

THE exorbitant exactions of ſervants in great houſes, and the neceſſity impoſed upon you, after dining at a friend's table, of ſurrendering all the money in your pocket to the *gang in livery*, who very dexterouſly intercept every avenue to the ſtreet-door, have been the ſubject of a former paper. This cuſtom, illiberal and prepoſterous as it is, neither the ridicule with which I have treated it, nor my more ſerious reprehenſion will, I fear, be able to aboliſh. My correſpondents continue to complain, that though the hoſpitable door is opened wide for their admiſſion, yet, like that of Pluto in Virgil, it is hardly pervious at their retreat; nor can they

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paſs the nineſold barrier without a copious ſhower of influencing ſilver. The watchful dragons ſtill expect, and will expect for ever, their quieting ſop, from his honour's bowing butler, with the ſignificant napkin under his arm, to the ſurly Swiſs who guards the veſtible. Your paſsport is not now received by theſe collectors, as a free gift, but gathered as a turnpike toll; or, in other words, as the juſt diſcharge of your tavern reckoning. Thus the ſtyle of invitation, which runs generally, that "Lord Such-a-one deſires you will do him the favour "to dine with him," is explained, by dear-bought experience, to import, that you will obligingly contribute your quota to the payment of his ſervants wages.

YET this abuſe, grievous as it is to the gueſt, and diſgraceful to the maſter, is by no means the greateſt inconvenience ariſing from a want of attention to œconomical regulations. The following letter, which I have only room to inſert at preſent, but which, for the ſake of my correſpondent, I may poſſibly take under conſideration at another opportunity, will ſufficiently ſhew the neceſſity of ſuch regulations.

To Mr. FITZ-ADAM,

SIR,

I AM a plain country gentleman, poſſeſſed of a plentiful fortune, and bleſt with moſt of the comforts of life; but am at preſent (not through any fault of my own, that I can recollect) in great diſtreſs; which I am as much at a loſs how to remedy, as I was unable to prevent. Though I have loved peace and quiet all my life, and have endeavoured conſtantly to maintain good order and harmony in my family, I owe my grievances to the intrigues and jealouſies, which have unhappily ſubſiſted for ſome time paſt amongſt my SERVANTS. I

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give them good wages, which I pay punctually; I indulge them in every reaſonable requeſt, from a deſire to make them happy; and I have been told by all of them in their ſeveral turns, that I am, without exception, *the very beſt of maſters*.

YET, with all my care and kindneſs, I cannot eſtabliſh a proper ſubordination amongſt them; without which, I am ſenſible, no family-government can long ſubſiſt; and for want of which (as they cannot find a decent and reaſonable cauſe of complaint againſt Me) they are perpetually quarrelling with one another. They do not, I believe, intend originally to hurt me: on the contrary, they pretend, my advantage alone is the occaſion of their diſagreement. But, were this really true, my caſe is no leſs deplorable; for, notwithſtanding the zeal they expreſs for my ſervice, and the reſpect and affection they profeſs to my perſon, my life is made miſerable by their domeſtic ſquabbles; and my eſtate is mouldering away daily, whilſt they are contending who ſhould manage it for me. They are ſo obliging as to aſſure me, upon their honours, that their conteſts are only who can beſt ſerve ſo good a maſter, and deſerve and claim the firſt place in his favour: but, alas! I begin to be a little apprehenſive that their ſtruggle is, and has been, who ſhould get moſt VAILS, and have moſt POWER under me; or, as you may think perhaps, *over* me.

THE firſt appearance of this inteſtine diſcord was upon the following occaſion.

I HAVE a very troubleſome neighbour, who is continually committing encroachments upon my lands and manor. He attacks me firſt with his *pen*; and pretending to have found out ſome flaw in my ſettlements, he commences a ſuit of treſpaſs againſt me: but at the ſame time,

time, fearing leſt the law ſhould happen to decide in favour of RIGHT, he ſends me word *he wears a ſword.* Not along ago he threatened me that he would break into my park, ſteal my fiſh out of my canal, and ſhoot my hares and deer within my pales. Upon the advice of my ſteward and other ſervants, I ſent to my eſtate in the north for a truſty game-keeper (whoſe bravery and fidelity I could rely upon) to come to my aſſiſtance, that he might help to preſerve, not only my GAME but my FAMILY, which ſeemed to be in no ſmall danger. Theſe orders were no ſooner diſpatched, than, to my great ſurpriſe, my POSTILION bolted into the parlour where I was ſitting, and told me with all the warmth of a patriot, that he could not conſent to FERDINAND the game-keeper's admiſſion into the houſe, for that he humbly conceived it was neither for my honour nor my intereſt to be indebted for any part of my protection, or even ſafety, to a FOREIGNER: for you muſt know, Mr. Fitz-Adam, that, very unfortunately for me, my poor honeſt FERDINAND did happen to be born ſomewhere or other in GERMANY. You may imagine however, that I paid little attention to this remonſtrance of my POSTILION; but diſmiſſing him from my ſervice, I ſent for FERDINAND; who, upon the firſt ſummons, travelled night and day to come to my relief.

THE next fit of affection that embarraſſed me, broke out in my ambitious HELPER. He profeſſed himſelf ſo exceſſively careful of my perſon, that he did not think it ſafe for me to be driven any longer by my old COACHMAN; on which account he grew impatient to aſcend the box himſelf. But his contrivances to facilitate this removal, were plain indications that he attended to his own advancement, more than to my preſervation: for I have been informed, that he has often frightened the horſes, to make them ſtart unexpectedly out of the quarter:

ter: at other times he has been detected in laying great ſtones in the way, with a deſign to overturn the coach; and in roads of difficulty and danger, was ſure to keep out of the way himſelf: nay, at laſt, he tried to perſuade the ſervants, that it was the COACHMAN's intention to drive headlong over them, and break all their necks. But when he found I had too good an opinion of old THOMAS to entertain any ſuſpicion of his *honeſty*, he came one morning in a pet, and gave me warning. I told him with great temper, he was too blame, paid him his wages, and bid THOMAS provide himſelf with another HELPER. But I leave you to judge of my grief as well as ſurpriſe, when THOMAS anſwered me with tears in his eyes, "that he muſt intreat my permiſſion "to retire from my ſervice: he found, he ſaid, he had "many enemies, both within doors and without; my "family was divided into various parties; ſome were fa-"vourable to the HELPER, and others had been wrought "upon by the late POSTILION; he ſhould be always "grateful for the goodneſs I had ſhewn him; and his "laſt breath ſhould be employed in praying for my "proſperity." It was with great reluctance that I conſented to his requeſt; he had ſerved me honeſtly above thirty years, from affection more than intereſt; had always greaſed my wheels himſelf, and upon every one of my birth-days had treated all his brother whips at his own expence: ſo that, far from being a gainer by my ſervice, he had ſpent above half of what he had ſaved, before he came into it. You may imagine I would willingly have ſettled a comfortable annuity upon him; but you will wonder at his behaviour on this occaſion: indeed I have never met with any thing like it, in one of his low ſtation: he declared, that he would rather live upon bread and cheeſe, than put my honour to any expence, when he could be no longer uſeful to me.

THUS